

CIC Bulletin - January 2020

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Message from the Executive Director



If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward.

– Martin Luther King, Jr.

2019 was a year of growth, learning, and achievement at the CIC. We ended the year by completing our holiday card project, and strengthening and creating new relationships with the community.

Through the post card signing events, we were able to increase the CIC's visibility, and further our mission to reach our incarcerated men and women from DC. I want to personally thank new and old partners of the CIC for the time, effort, and care that were poured into the holiday post card project: Byte Back, Mr. Fox's Street Law Class at Cardozo High School, MORCA, OAG, Howard University's School of Divinity, United Methodist Women of Baltimore, the Yavonne Dubose ladies ministry, Covenant United Methodist Church, Village Swingers Square Dancers, Frederick County Promenadors Square Dancers, Ebenezer AME, the Legislative Council, The Spice Suite, Ward 6 Councilman Charles Allen, Martha's Table, the Urban Alliance, and the Represent Justice Campaign.

As we enter 2020, we plan to continue collaborating with MORCA and communicating with the DCC. The CIC staff will be joining MORCA on upcoming ROP visits for

periodic resource fairs to increase our agency's exposure. We also aim to increase the frequency of our legal visits at the DOC. The CIC will visit Hope Village in early February.



CIC Director Donald Isaac, along with DOC staff, congratulates graduates and certificate recipients at the Central Treatment Facility during the DOC graduation ceremony.

-Donald Isaac, Sr.



Hope Village Updates

The CIC will visit Hope Village with an on-site inspection in early February 2020. As a preliminary information gathering step, we are reaching out to community partners both to get information about recent experiences with Hope Village (staff, residents, primary concerns, anything that is working well, etc.) and to help connect with former residents of Hope Village who would be interested in sharing their experiences with the CIC.

If you are willing, we are asking for you/your organization's input via this [survey](#).

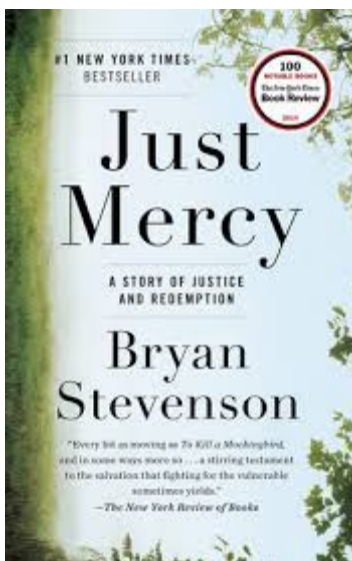
If you or someone you know is a current or former Hope Village resident who would be willing to speak with the CIC about Hope Village, please reach out to us directly by emailing chrissant.bracken@dc.gov or calling us at (202) 478-9211.

Upcoming Community Events

Spring Community Events

- Thursday, January 23, 2020, beginning at 2:30 pm: Public Hearing on Removing Barriers to Occupational Licensing for Returning Citizens Amendment Act of 2019.** The purpose is to establish a uniform standard for occupational licensing boards. The board will consider only pending criminal accusations or prior convictions directly related to the occupation for which the license is sought. The standard will require notice to and an opportunity to respond with mitigating evidence for individuals who receive an adverse decision based on their criminal history. Appeals occur at a joint hearing before the DC Council's Committee on Judiciary & Public Safety and the Committee on Facilities & Procurement. To testify: email judiciary@dccouncil.us with your name, telephone number, organizational affiliation, and title (if any), **by close of business Monday, January 20, 2020.** Representatives of organizations will be allowed a maximum of five minutes for oral testimony, and individuals will be allowed a maximum of three minutes. Bring 20 copies of your written testimony to the hearing and submit an electronic copy in advance to judiciary@dccouncil.us. If you are unable to make it that day, you can submit written testimony for the record by Thursday, February 6, 2020 by COB.
- Monday, February 3, 2020, 6 pm- 7:30 pm at Martha's Table:** The READY Center will host their next town hall meeting. Click [HERE](#) for more information and RSVP to: eric.weaver@dc.gov.

What We're Reading: Justice and Equality



Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption

by Bryan Stevenson

Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), a nonprofit law office in Montgomery, Alabama, dedicated to defending the poor, the incarcerated, and the wrongly condemned. *Just Mercy* tells the story of the Equal Justice Initiative, which began with a small staff facing the nation's highest death sentencing and execution rates. One of EJI's first clients was Walter McMillian, a young black man who was sentenced to die for the murder of a young white woman, which he did not commit.



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